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APPLICATION NO.	FELD	VG DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
09/818,637 03/28/2001		28/2001	Gerald Sanchez	USB00 DPR ECG SY/AM	1737
466	7590	11/13/2003		EXAMINER	
	THOMPS	•	BARR, MICHAEL E		
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22202				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				1762	·

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Committee Commi				
Examiner Art Unit Total	1		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Michael Barr	•	Office Action Commence	09/818,637	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. 1 The MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. 1 If the period for reply specified above is less than thity (30) days, a reply within the statutory period will give an original properties of the period for reply specified above, the mineman of 30 CRI. 13(8). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled and reply to the maining date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above, the mineman of 30 CRI. 13(8). 1 If the period for reply specified above, the mineman existency period will give and will enjoy at X(1) (a)(40) first the maining date of this communication. If the period for reply is applicated above, the maining date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any seamed petition the major period by the seamed period that the period of the communication. Period by the timely filled, may reduce any seamed petition and period period and the communication of the communication is non-final. 3 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex partic Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5 Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected. 5 Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers Claim(s) are subject to the properties of the properties		Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit
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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments and amendments, filed 10/8/03, have been fully considered and reviewed by the examiner. In light of the amendments, the objection to the abstract and the rejections to the claimed under 35 USC 112 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-17 are pending.

The applicant has argued that the device taught or suggested by the references do not teach the claimed function equation. While the cited references (Hennechart et al. and Sato et al.) do not teach controlling the coating thickness as a function of the second derivative of the curve of the meniscus and the capillary number and exit channel characteristics, according to the claimed function equation, the structure of the apparatus suggested by Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. is the same as that claimed and thus would have been expected to have the same capabilities. The manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus itself (*Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPQ 2d 1546, 1548). The structure of the apparatus of Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. is capable of operating as claimed and thus meets the claimed requirements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. in view Sato et al.

Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 7 of the previous office action.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Fishman et al.

Hennechart et al., Sato et al., and Fishman et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 8 of the previous office action.

5. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Unoki et al.

Hennechart et al., Sato et al., and Unoki et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 9 of the previous office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Barr whose telephone number is 703-305-7919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive Beck can be reached on 703-308-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

> Michael Barr Primary Examiner Art Unit 1762

MB

November 5, 2003

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